

# **Quarterly Report on Mental Health Services Utilization for Children/Youth in the Child Welfare System**

*Reporting Period: January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015*

*Produced in April 2017*

## **Section I: Background**

To inform efforts to improve mental health service delivery to children in the Child Welfare System (CWS), the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is working with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to produce reports on Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) utilization on a quarterly basis. DHCS currently uses matched data from the CDSS Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) and the DHCS Short-Doyle Medi-Cal (SDMC) claiming system. The SDMC and CWS/CMS are used to produce annual [Performance Outcomes System \(POS\) reports](#) summarizing SMHS Medi-Cal claims data for children in the CWS.<sup>1</sup> CDSS' quarterly reports not only increase reporting frequency using the matched data, but also expand upon DHCS' POS reports to include additional relevant information (e.g., CDSS' race/ethnicity data, more granular age groupings, SMHS utilization by length of time in the CWS system, psychotropic medication in conjunction with SMHS). The mental health services data in this report include only SMHS paid claims. Thus utilization rates do not reflect mental health services received through other programs such as school based counseling, Mental Health Services Act programs, and other grant funded services.

## **Section II: Methodology**

This quarterly report provides SMHS utilization for: 1) children with an open child welfare case; and 2) the subset of children with an open child welfare case in foster care (those who resided in out-of-home care during the time period). Data in this report were extracted from the Medi-Cal Management Information System/Decision Support System (MIS/DSS) data warehouse on March 17, 2017, and reflect SMHS utilization for these two groups that occurred from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015.

Throughout this report, "penetration rates," defined as one or more days of SMHS, and "engagement rates," defined as five or more days of SMHS, are provided to reflect SMHS utilization for the various subgroups.<sup>2</sup> These rates are calculated by obtaining the percent of the total number of children that received services.

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<sup>1</sup> SDMC data are extracted from the DHCS MIS/DSS. The most recent POS report includes data extracted on August 3, 2016, for State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2011-2012 through 2014-2015.

<sup>2</sup> The definitions for "penetration" and "engagement" were established by DHCS with feedback from subject matter experts who have contributed to the development of the DHCS POS.

## Section III: Overall SMHS Utilization

### SMHS Utilization by Population Groupings

Table 1 shows that during this period, 131,964 children had an open child welfare case. Of these children, **42.5 percent** (56,053) had one or more days of SMHS claims and **31.4 percent** (41,437) had **five or more** days of SMHS claims. Of the 131,964 children with an open child welfare case, 85,601 were in foster care at some point during the reporting period. Of these children in foster care, **48.3 percent** (41,347) had one or more SMHS claims and **36.3 percent** (31,054) had **five or more** days of SMHS claims during their time in foster care.

**Table 1: Specialty Mental Health Service Utilization – Calendar Year (CY) 2015<sup>1,2</sup>**

	Unique Count of Children	Children with 1+ Days of SMHS	Penetration Rate	Children with 5+ Days of SMHS	Engagement Rate
<b>Children with Open Cases</b>	131,964	56,053	42.5%	41,437	31.4%
<b>Children in Foster Care</b>	85,601	41,347	48.3%	31,054	36.3%

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: CWS/CMS and MIS/DSS extracted on March 17, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

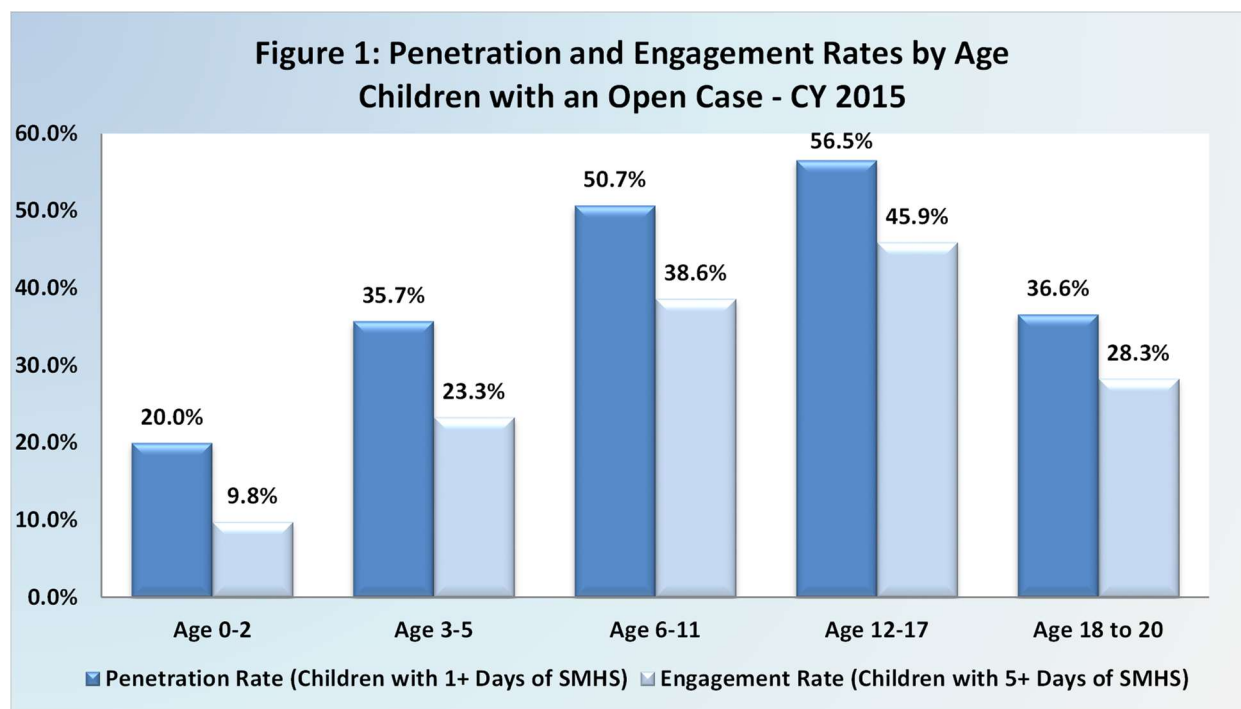
## Section IV: Children/Youth with an Open Child Welfare Case - SMHS Utilization

This section presents SMHS data on the overall population of children with an open child welfare case during CY 2015.

### *Children/Youth with an Open Child Welfare Case: Penetration and Engagement Rates by Age Group*

Figure 1 and Table 2 present SMHS data for children by age group. This report includes an additional age breakout compared to POS reports – 0-5 year olds were split into 0-2 and 3-5 year olds. This additional group was added to reflect clinical practice patterns that initiate psychotherapy at age 3. While some SMHS may be provided prior to age 3, many treatments begin at age 3. Thus, the additional breakout was included to illustrate the increase in access to care that begins at age 3.

Children/youth between the ages of 12 and 17 had the highest engagement rate (45.9 percent) while children age 0 to 2 had the lowest engagement rate (9.8 percent). Of the 56,053 children who had a claim for SMHS, **73.9 percent** (41,437) had **five or more** days of SMHS claims.



Data Source: CWS/CMS and MIS/DSS extracted on March 17, 2017.

Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

Age is calculated as of the last day of the reporting period.

**Table 2: Specialty Mental Health Services by Age Group for Children in an Open Child Welfare Case – CY 2015<sup>1,2</sup>**

Child Age <sup>3</sup>	Total # of Children	Percent by Age	Children with 1+ Days of SMHS	Penetration Rate	Children with 5+ Days of SMHS	Engagement Rate
0-2	24,159	18.3%	4,831	20.0%	2,356	9.8%
3-5	23,491	17.8%	8,398	35.7%	5,468	23.3%
6-11	37,612	28.5%	19,066	50.7%	14,518	38.6%
12-17	33,413	25.3%	18,894	56.5%	15,337	45.9%
18 to 20	13,289	10.1%	4,864	36.6%	3,758	28.3%
<b>Total</b>	131,964	100%	56,053	42.5%	41,437	31.4%

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: CWS/CMS and MIS/DSS extracted on March 17, 2017.

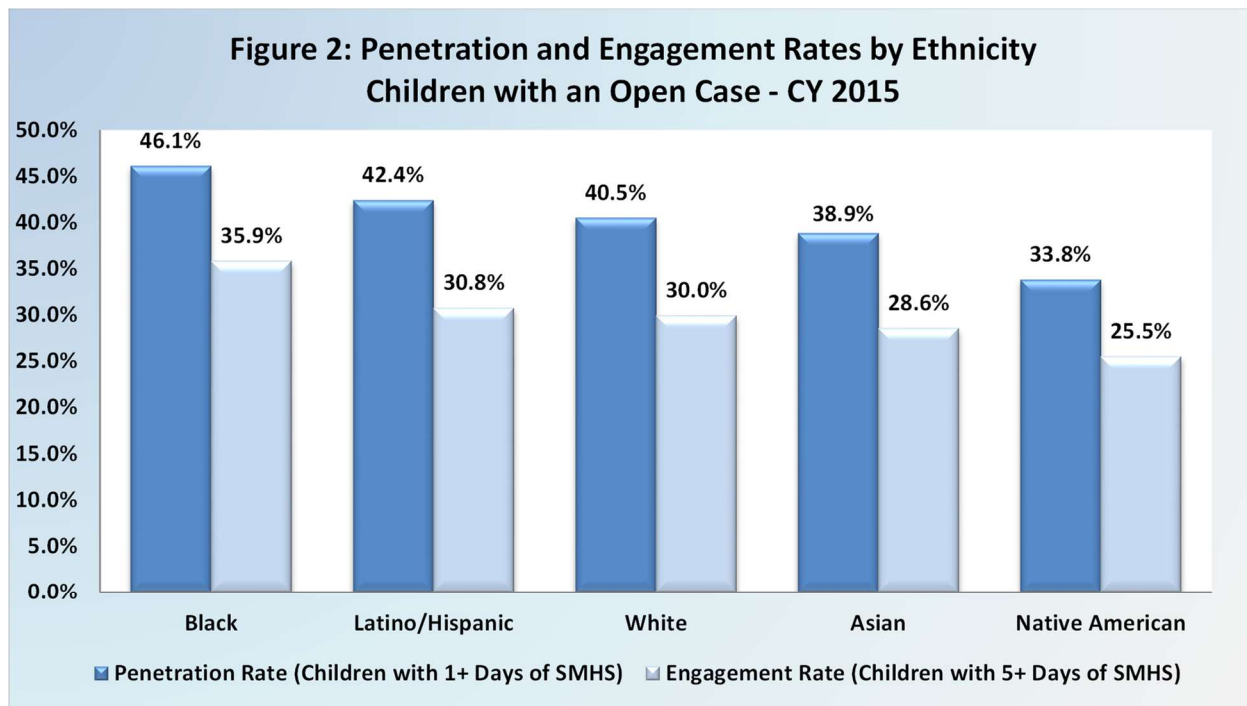
<sup>2</sup> Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> Age is calculated as of the last day of the reporting period.

***Children/Youth with an Open Child Welfare Case: Penetration and Engagement Rates by CDSS Race/Ethnicity***

As illustrated in Figure 2 and Table 3 below, the percentage of children with an open child welfare case who received five or more days of SMHS did not differ greatly by ethnicity. A slightly higher proportion of Black and Latino children received five or more days of services: 35.9 percent of Black and 30.8 percent of Latino children. A lower proportion of Native American and Asian children received five or more days of services (25.5 percent of Native American children and 28.6 percent of Asian children). Thirty percent of White children had five or more days of SMHS claims during the time period. Differences must be interpreted with caution as statistical tests were not conducted to determine whether these differences reflect true population differences or random statistical variation.

Note: The race/ethnicity estimates below differ from those in the POS reports due to differences in collection methods for race/ethnicity used by CDSS as compared to DHCS.



Data Source: CWS/CMS and MIS/DSS extracted on March 17, 2017.

Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

Race/Ethnicity is based on CWS/CMS. Child Race/ethnicity is collapsed based on 31 codes from two CWS/CMS variables, one indicating "Race" and the other a "Hispanic Indicator." For children with a positive "Hispanic Indicator" race/ethnicity was categorized as "Latino/Hispanic" regardless of "Race" category.

**Table 3: Specialty Mental Health Services by Race/Ethnicity for Children in an Open Child Welfare Case – CY 2015<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Race/Ethnicity <sup>3</sup>	Total # of Children	Percent by Race/Ethnicity	Children with 1+ Days of SMHS	Penetration Rate	Children with 5+ Days of SMHS	Engagement Rate
Black	25,327	19.2%	11,685	46.1%	9,080	35.9%
Latino/Hispanic	74,198	56.2%	31,469	42.4%	22,831	30.8%
White	27,308	20.7%	11,068	40.5%	8,184	30.0%
Asian	3,139	2.4%	1,220	38.9%	897	28.6%
Native American	1,558	1.2%	527	33.8%	398	25.5%
Missing	434	0.3%	84	19.4%	47	10.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>131,964</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>56,053</b>	<b>42.5%</b>	<b>41,437</b>	<b>31.4%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: CWS/CMS and MIS/DSS extracted on March 17, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> Race/Ethnicity is based on CWS/CMS. Child Race/ethnicity is collapsed based on 31 codes from two CWS/CMS variables, one indicating "Race" and the other a "Hispanic Indicator." For children with a positive "Hispanic Indicator" race/ethnicity was categorized as "Latino/Hispanic" regardless of "Race" category.

### **Children/Youth with an Open Child Welfare Case: SMHS Utilization by Type of Service**

According to claims data, 97.2 percent of the 56,053 children who received SMHS received a Mental Health Services service type. A large percentage of children received Case Management services (40.7 percent) and Medication Support services (23.5 percent; see Table 4).

**Table 4: Specialty Mental Health Service by Type for Children in an Open Child Welfare Case – CY 2015<sup>1, 2</sup>**

SMHS Types <sup>3</sup>	# of Children with One or More SMHS <sup>4</sup> (56,053)	% of Children with One or More SMHS
Mental Health (MH) Services	54,458	97.2%
Case Management	22,809	40.7%
Medication Support	13,194	23.5%
Intensive Case Coordination (ICC)	9,909	17.7%
Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS)	7,560	13.5%
Crisis Intervention	3,511	6.3%
Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS)	3,019	5.4%
Inpatient	2,082	3.7%
Crisis Stabilization	1,909	3.4%
Day Rehabilitation	689	1.2%
Day Treatment	343	0.6%
Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF)	164	0.3%
Crisis Residential	49	0.1%
Adult Residential	*	*

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: CWS/CMS and MIS/DSS extracted on March 17, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> For description of SMHS Types see the [Medi-Cal SMHS Supplement Document](#).

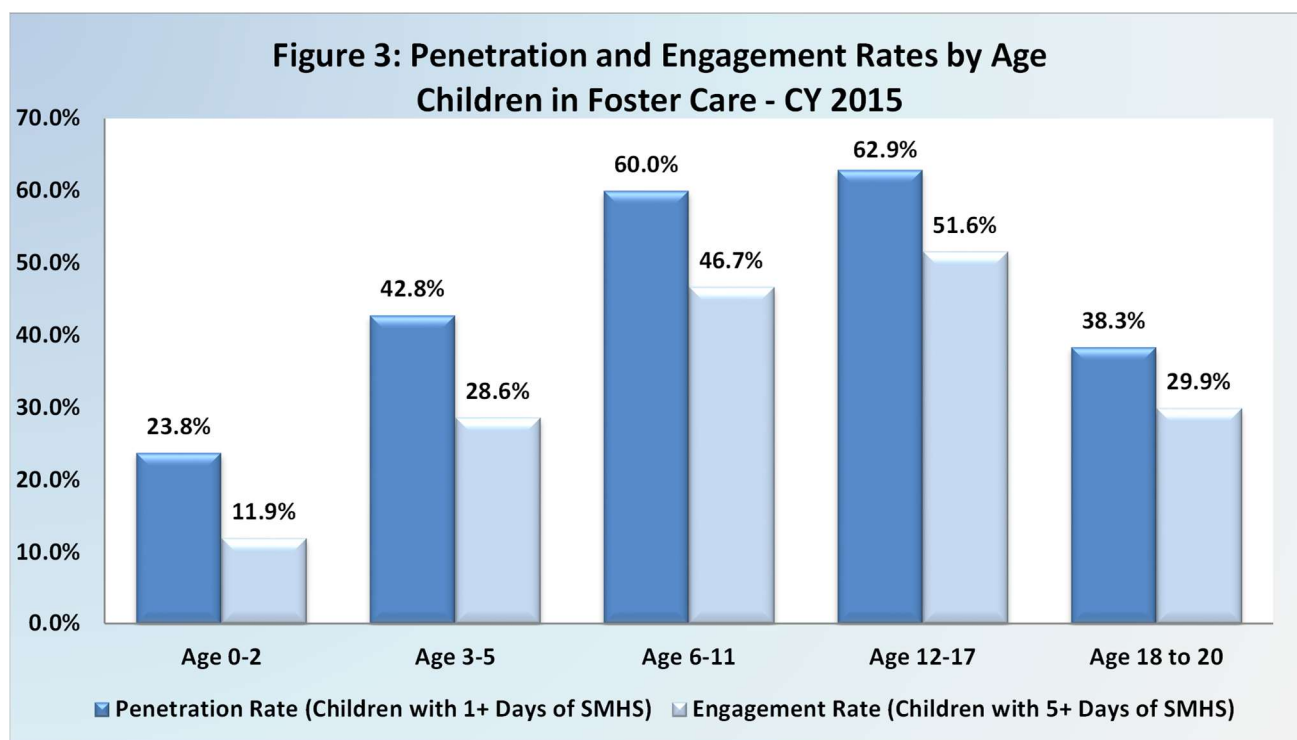
<sup>4</sup> Child count is unduplicated within each service type but may be duplicated across service types. A child may be counted in several different service types. Values of 10 or under are suppressed.

## Section V: Children/Youth in Foster Care - SMHS Utilization

This section presents SMHS data on the subset of children and youth with an open child welfare case who also resided in an out-of-home placement (in foster care) at some point during the time period under review. *Note: In this section, the penetration rates (41,347) and engagement rates (31,054) exclude children who were in foster care at some point during the time period but did not receive a SMHS while in care and instead received a SMHS while at home. These children represent a relatively small portion of children in foster care: 1,757 children received their SMHS while they were in their homes.*

### Children/Youth in Foster Care: Penetration and Engagement Rates by Age Groups

As noted above, an additional age breakout category was added in this report (compared to POS reports) to capture variation in claims for children ages 0-2 and 3-5. As shown in Figure 3 and Table 5, a greater proportion of school age and adolescent children (age 6-11 and 12-17) received five or more days of SMHS (engagement rates are 46.7 percent and 51.6 percent, respectively) when compared to children ages 0-2 (11.9 percent), 3-5 (28.6 percent), and 18-20 (29.9 percent). Of the 41,347 children who had a claim for SMHS, **75.1 percent** (31,054) had **five or more** days of SMHS claims.



Data Source: CWS/CMS and MIS/DSS extracted on March 17, 2017.

Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

Age is calculated as of the last day of the reporting period.

**Table 5: Specialty Mental Health Services by Age Group for Children in Foster Care – CY 2015<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Child Age <sup>3</sup>	Total # of Children	Percent by Age	Children with 1+ Days of SMHS	Penetration Rate	Children with 5+ Days of SMHS	Engagement Rate
0-2	15,976	18.7%	3,797	23.8%	1,906	11.9%
3-5	14,386	16.8%	6,152	42.8%	4,117	28.6%
6-11	21,793	25.5%	13,073	60.0%	10,170	46.7%
12-17	22,408	26.2%	14,093	62.9%	11,557	51.6%
18 to 20	11,038	12.9%	4,232	38.3%	3,304	29.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,601</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>41,347</b>	<b>48.3%</b>	<b>31,054</b>	<b>36.3%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: CWS/CMS and MIS/DSS extracted on March 17, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

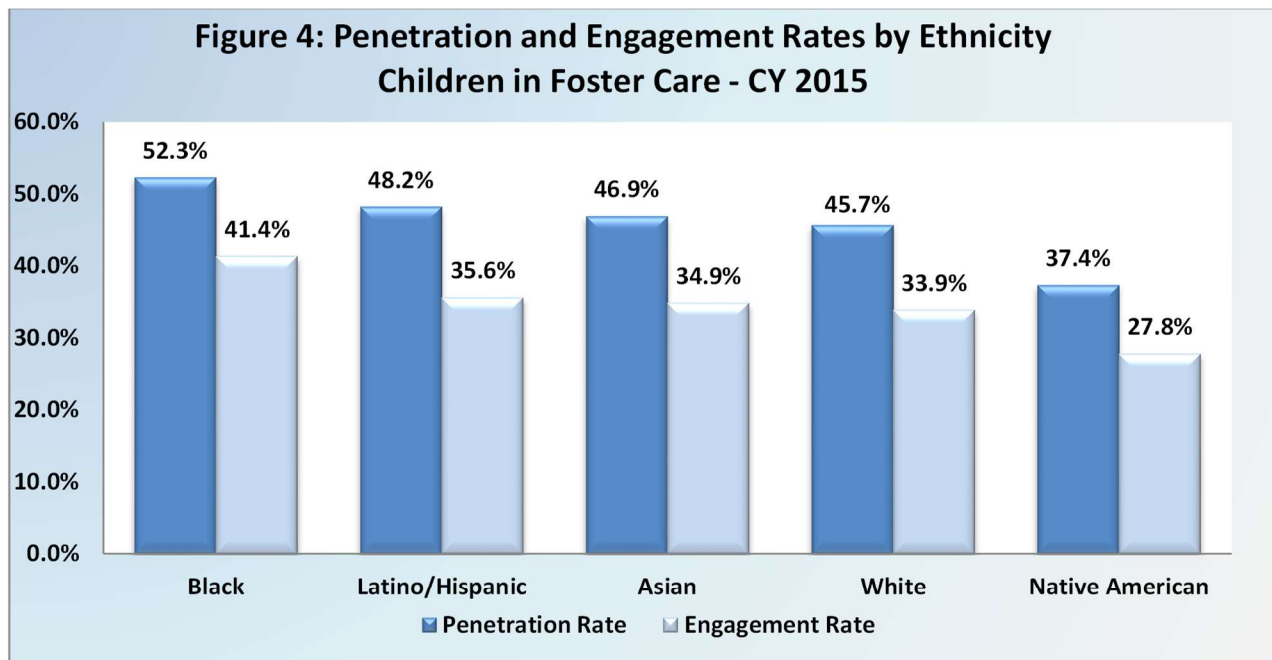
<sup>3</sup> Age is calculated as of the last day of the reporting period.

### ***Children/Youth in Foster Care: Penetration and Engagement Rates by CDSS Race/Ethnicity***

Similar to the findings for the larger group of children with an open child welfare case, children in foster care with SMHS claims did not differ greatly by ethnicity.

Note: the race/ethnicity estimates below differ from those in the POS reports due to differences in collection methods for race/ethnicity used by CDSS as compared to DHCS.





Data Source: CWS/CMS and MIS/DSS extracted on March 17, 2017.

Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

Race/ethnicity is based on CWS/CMS. Child Race/ethnicity is collapsed based on 31 codes from two CWS/CMS variables, one indicating "Race" and the other a "Hispanic Indicator." For children with a positive "Hispanic Indicator" race/ethnicity was categorized as "Latino/Hispanic" regardless of "Race" category.

**Table 6: Specialty Mental Health Services by Race/Ethnicity for Children in Foster Care – CY 2015<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Race/Ethnicity <sup>3</sup>	Total # of Children	Percent by Race/Ethnicity	Children with 1+ Days of SMHS	Penetration Rate	Children with 5+ Days of SMHS	Engagement Rate
Black	17,914	20.9%	9,371	52.3%	7,408	41.4%
Latino/Hispanic	44,999	52.6%	21,710	48.2%	16,030	35.6%
Asian	1,833	2.1%	860	46.9%	639	34.9%
White	19,532	22.8%	8,920	45.7%	6,624	33.9%
Native American	1,143	1.3%	427	37.4%	318	27.8%
Missing	180	0.2%	59	32.8%	35	19.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,601</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>41,347</b>	<b>48.3%</b>	<b>31,054</b>	<b>36.3%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: CWS/CMS and MIS/DSS extracted on March 17, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> Race/ethnicity is based on CWS/CMS. Child Race/ethnicity is collapsed based on 31 codes from two CWS/CMS variables, one indicating "Race" and the other a "Hispanic Indicator." For children with a positive "Hispanic Indicator" race/ethnicity was categorized as "Latino/Hispanic" regardless of "Race" category.

### **SMHS Utilization by CWS Placement Type**

As noted previously, 85,601 children with an open child welfare case were in foster care during this time period and of these children, 41,347 received a SMHS. Penetration rates differed by placement type for children in foster care. A higher proportion of children in group homes and county shelters/receiving homes received SMHS (71.5 and 73.2 percent, respectively) than children in other placements (see Table 7). More than half of children placed in foster family homes received one or more SMHS during this time period.

**Table 7: Specialty Mental Health Services by Placement Type for Children in Foster Care – CY 2015<sup>1, 2</sup>**

<b>Last Placement Type<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Total # of Children</b>	<b>Children with 1+ Days of SMHS</b>	<b>Penetration Rate</b>
County Shelter/Receiving Home	328	240	73.2%
Group Home	9,240	6,606	71.5%
Foster Family Agency Certified Home	22,481	12,095	53.8%
Foster Family Home	7,535	4,045	53.7%
Relative/NREFM Home	29,907	14,478	48.4%
Other <sup>4</sup>	1,370	597	43.6%
Court Specified Home	285	91	31.9%
Guardian Home	2,559	799	31.2%
Supervised Independent Living Placement	3,697	754	20.4%
Pre-Adoptive	5,678	1,021	18.0%
Missing	764	621	81.3%
<b>Received SMHS while in Foster Care at Some Point During Time Period</b>	<b>83,844</b>	<b>41,347</b>	
<b>In Foster Care at Some Point During Time Period but Served While In Home</b>	<b>1,757</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,601</b>	<b>41,347</b>	<b>48.3%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: CWS/CMS and MIS/DSS extracted on March 17, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> Placement Type was determined by identifying the child's placement as of the last date of service for those with a SMHS claim, and the child's last placement during the time period for those without a SMHS claim.

<sup>4</sup> Includes children whose placement was in an 'Other' facility (ex. hospital, juvenile hall).

To further characterize mental health utilization for children residing in group homes, penetration rates were examined by group home Rate Classification Level (RCL). RCLs are funding categories which reflect the intensity of services provided at the group home. Group homes are categorized from a level 5 (at the lowest level of service intensity) to a level 14, reflecting the highest intensity of services provided. Thus, children and youth residing in higher level RCLs generally need a higher level of care and supervision than children in lower level RCLs. Analysis of claims data suggests that penetration rates are generally higher for children and youth in higher RCL homes than for those in lower RCL homes (see Table 8). Penetration rates were highest in RCL 14 homes: 96.1 percent of child welfare supervised and 96.5 percent of probation supervised children and youth in these homes had one or more days of SMHS.

**Table 8: Specialty Mental Health Services by Group Home RCLs for Children in Foster Care – CY 2015<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Group Home RCL	Total # of Children	Percent by RCL	Children with 1+ Days of SMHS	Penetration Rate
<b>Child Welfare Supervised Group Home RCL</b>				
5 to 9	401	7.4%	303	75.6%
10	632	11.7%	474	75.0%
11	682	12.6%	497	72.9%
12	2,735	50.6%	2,333	85.3%
14	432	8.0%	415	96.1%
Unknown or No RCL <sup>3</sup>	522	9.7%	416	79.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,404</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,438</b>	<b>82.1%</b>
<b>Probation Supervised Group Home RCL</b>				
5 to 9	55	1.4%	23	41.8%
10	768	20.0%	234	30.5%
11	240	6.3%	67	27.9%
12	2,378	62.0%	1,690	71.1%
14	113	2.9%	109	96.5%
Unknown or No RCL <sup>3</sup>	282	7.4%	45	16.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,836</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,168</b>	<b>56.5%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: CWS/CMS and MIS/DSS extracted on March 17, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> Group homes with unknown or no RCLs are located out of state or do not receive a federal AFDC-FC payment (examples include regional center homes and county-run facilities).

### **Children/Youth in Foster Care: SMHS Utilization by Type of Service**

According to claims data, 96.7 percent of the 41,347 children in foster care who received SMHS received a Mental Health Services service type. A large percentage of children received Case Management services (41.0 percent) and Medication Support services (26.3 percent; see Table 9).

**Table 9: Specialty Mental Health Service by Types for Children in Foster Care – CY 2015<sup>1, 2</sup>**

<b>SMHS Types<sup>3</sup></b>	<b># of Children with One or More SMHS while in Foster Care<sup>4</sup> (41,347)</b>	<b>% of Children with One or More SMHS</b>
Mental Health (MH) Services	39,992	96.7%
Case Management	16,938	41.0%
Medication Support	10,871	26.3%
Intensive Case Coordination (ICC)	7,405	17.9%
Intensive Home Based Services	5,302	12.8%
Crisis Intervention	2,687	6.5%
Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS)	2,490	6.0%
Inpatient	1,562	3.8%
Crisis Stabilization	1,514	3.7%
Day Rehabilitation	668	1.6%
Day Treatment	314	0.8%
Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF)	148	0.4%
Crisis Residential	35	0.1%
Adult Residential	*	*

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: CWS/CMS and MIS/DSS extracted on March 17, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> For description of SMHS Types see the [Medi-Cal SMHS Supplement Document](#).

<sup>4</sup> Child count is unduplicated within each service type but may be duplicated across service types. A child may be counted in several different service types. Values of 10 or under are suppressed.

### **Children/Youth in Foster Care: SMHS Utilization for Children/Youth Who Have a Paid Claim for a Psychotropic Medication**

Statewide efforts have focused on examining the use of psychotropic medications to treat children in foster care. This report provides data regarding the utilization of SMHS by children ages 0-17 in foster care who had Medi-Cal paid claims for psychotropic medications. It should be noted that SMHS claims data include the various types of services listed in Tables 4 and 9.

As illustrated in Table 10 below, psychotropic medication claims were paid for 10,449 children and youth in foster care. Of these children, 8,670 (83.0 percent) also had a claim for at least one SMHS during the same time period, while 8,018 (76.7 percent) had five or more days of SMHS.

Of all the children who received a paid claim for a psychotropic medication, 3,850 children received at least one paid claim for an antipsychotic medication, while the remaining received a paid claim for other drug classes of psychotropic other than antipsychotic. Of the children for whom a claim for antipsychotic was paid, 84.8 percent (3,266) received at least one corresponding SMHS, while 79.4 percent received five or more days of SMHS. The penetration and engagement rates for children with a claim for antipsychotic medications were slightly higher than children on other psychotropic medications.

**Table 10: Utilization of Specialty Mental Health Services for Children<sup>1</sup> in Foster Care with a Paid Claim for Psychotropic Medication<sup>2</sup> – CY 2015<sup>3</sup>**

Medication Type	Children in Foster Care with a Paid Claim for Psychotropic Medication <sup>4</sup>	Children with 1+ Days of SMHS	Penetration Rate	Children with 5+ Days of SMHS	Engagement Rate
<b>All Psychotropic</b>	<b>10,449</b>	<b>8,670</b>	<b>83.0%</b>	<b>8,018</b>	<b>76.7%</b>
Antipsychotic <sup>5</sup>	3,850	3,266	84.8%	3,056	79.4%
Other Psychotropic <sup>6</sup>	6,599	5,404	81.9%	4,962	75.2%

<sup>1</sup> Unduplicated children ages 0-17 were included.

<sup>2</sup> Data source: CWS/CMS 2016 Q3 Extract and MIS/DSS November 2016 Extract

<sup>3</sup> Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

<sup>4</sup> Data for children in foster care with a Medi-Cal paid claim for psychotropic medication ([Measure 5a](#)) was matched to children with a paid claim for a SMHS during an open foster care episode.

<sup>5</sup> Children who received at least one paid claim for an antipsychotic medication.

<sup>6</sup> Number of children who received a paid claim for other drug classes of psychotropic medications exclusive of antipsychotic medications.

### ***Children/Youth in Foster Care: Timeliness of SMHS Utilization for Children/Youth Who Have a Paid Claim for a Psychotropic Medication***

The length of time between a paid claim for medication and a SMHS claim was calculated to explore the extent to which children received SMHS in conjunction with their receipt of psychotropic medication. The majority of children (97.0 percent) had a SMHS claim submitted within 30 days of their psychotropic medication claim (see Table 11).

**Table 11: Number of days between a Paid Claim for Psychotropic Medication and a Specialty Mental Health Service<sup>1, 2</sup> – CY 2015<sup>3</sup>**

Number of Days	# of Children <sup>4</sup> with a Paid Claim for Psychotropic Medication with 1+ Days of SMHS	Percent
30 days or less	8,409	97.0%
31-60 days	88	1.0%
61-90 days	49	0.6%
91-120 days	34	0.4%
121-365 days	90	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,670</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Data source: CWS/CMS 2016 Q3 Extract and MIS/DSS November 2016 Extract

<sup>2</sup>Data for children in foster care with a Medi-Cal paid claim for psychotropic medication ([Measure 5a](#)) was matched to children with a paid claim for a SMHS during an open foster care episode.

<sup>3</sup>Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

<sup>4</sup>Unduplicated children ages 0-17 were included.

### ***Children/Youth in Foster Care: SMHS Utilization Excluding Medication Support for Children/Youth Who Have a Paid Claim for a Psychotropic Medication***

To further characterize mental health service utilization for children in foster care receiving psychotropic medications, SMHS claims were analyzed excluding medication support. The intent of this analysis was to determine whether there were children receiving psychotropic medication who only received medication support and did not receive other SMHS. The resulting penetration rates did not differ substantially from penetration rates that included medication support: 83.0 percent of children with a psychotropic medication claim received an SMHS including medication support, 80.9 percent received concurrent SMHS excluding medication support. This suggests most children who are prescribed psychotropic medication receive SMHS, with only a small portion of those youth only receiving medication support. Engagement rates and timeliness of services for children with psychotropic medications also were similar when excluding medication support (see Tables 12 and 13).

**Table 12: Utilization of Specialty Mental Health Services Excluding Medication Support for Children<sup>1</sup> in Foster Care with a Paid Claim for Psychotropic Medication<sup>2</sup> – CY 2015<sup>3</sup>**

Medication Type	Children in Foster Care with a Paid Claim for Psychotropic Medication <sup>4</sup>	Children with 1+ Days of SMHS Excluding Medication Support	Penetration Rate	Children with 5+ Days of SMHS Excluding Medication Support	Engagement Rate
<b>All Psychotropic</b>	<b>10,449</b>	<b>8,457</b>	<b>80.9%</b>	<b>7,715</b>	<b>73.8%</b>
Antipsychotic <sup>5</sup>	3,850	3,183	82.7%	2,937	76.3%
Other Psychotropic <sup>6</sup>	6,599	5,274	79.9%	4,778	72.4%

<sup>1</sup> Unduplicated children ages 0-17 were included.

<sup>2</sup> Data source: CWS/CMS 2016 Q3 Extract and MIS/DSS November 2016 Extract

<sup>3</sup> Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

<sup>4</sup> Data for children in foster care with a Medi-Cal paid claim for psychotropic medication ([Measure 5a](#)) was matched to children with a paid claim for a SMHS during an open foster care episode.

<sup>5</sup> Children who received at least one paid claim for an antipsychotic medication.

<sup>6</sup> Number of children who received a paid claim for other drug classes of psychotropic medications exclusive of antipsychotic medications.

**Table 13: Number of days between a Paid Claim for Psychotropic Medication and a Specialty Mental Health Service Excluding Medication Support<sup>1, 2</sup> – CY 2015<sup>3</sup>**

Number of Days	# of Children <sup>4</sup> with a Paid Claim for Psychotropic Medication with 1+ Days of SMHS Excluding Medication Support	Percent
30 days or less	8,125	96.1%
31-60 days	121	1.4%
61-90 days	65	0.8%
91-120 days	39	0.5%
121-365 days	107	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,457</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data source: CWS/CMS 2016 Q3 Extract and MIS/DSS November 2016 Extract

<sup>2</sup> Data for children in foster care with a Medi-Cal paid claim for psychotropic medication ([Measure 5a](#)) was matched to children with a paid claim for a SMHS during an open foster care episode.

<sup>3</sup> Non-SMHS provided through non-Medi-Cal-funded school services, grant-funded, or Mental Health Services Act funded services are excluded.

<sup>4</sup> Unduplicated children ages 0-17 were included.

## **Section VI: Conclusion**

This report presents an analysis of SMHS utilization by children with open child welfare cases, including focused analyses on children in foster care. The results suggest that a substantial percentage of children (42.5 percent) received at least one or more days of SMHS, and the majority of these children (73.9 percent) received five or more days of SMHS. Differences in service utilization by demographic characteristics were minimal, however, a greater proportion of children ages 6-17 received SMHS. Fewer very young children and older adolescents received services. Further, a greater proportion of children in group homes received services than children in other placements. This report represents an effort to characterize services for children in the CWS.